THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) I am in touch with Forest Minister of Andhra Pradesh on the subject of conservation of foersts in Andhra Pradesh especially in East and West Godavari. districts.

(i) State Government has provided two mobile squads for protection of forest in the area.

(ii) The Chief Conservator of Forest (Central) southern region is in touch with State Government to work out a long term strategy for conservation of forests.

(iii) Benefit sharing arrangements are being made through joint forestry management principles to associate local communities with conservation of forests. The Central Government has provided financial assistance of Rs. 12.32 lakhs for this work in 1992-93.

(iv) An integrated forestry project proposed by the Government to the World Bank has been appraised by the bank. Implementation of this project will ensure conservation of natural forest and development degraded areas.

(v) A sum of Rs. 18.70 lakh has been provided to Government of Andhra pradesh for protection of forest from biotic interference and fires in 1992-93.

(e) Question does not arise.

Pollution of Rivers

250. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether pollution of rivers caused by pesticides and other such hazardous chemicals released from the factories and farms is being constantly monitored under the Natural Water Quality Monitoring Network;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government to check such pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) 27 locations in the Ganga are monitored for seven pesticides. The analytical data show highly fluctuating levels of pesticides concentrations and do not show any definite trends in spatial and temporal variations.

(c) Standards have been prescribed for pesticides in industrial discharge and industries are required to conform to these standards. The State Pollution Control Boards are monitoring the compliance of standards on a regular basis. Safe and judicious use of pesticides is encouraged through awareness programmes.

Tiger Census at Ranthambhore

251. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tiger census at Ranthambhore has since been completed;

(b) if so, the number of tigers at Ranthambhore according to the available figures;

(c) the reasons for the reduction in the tiger population in spite of Project Tiger; and

(d) what steps are contemplated to ensure the increase in tiger population in the next few years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The approximate number of tigers in Ranthambhore, according to preliminary estimates of the State Government after May. 1993 census, is 28.

(c) and (d) The Project Tiger looks at the conservation of complete eco-system of